**Pension to elderly persons, widows, divorced women etc.**

840. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monthly pension or yearly *ex-gratia* is at present being paid to elderly persons (above 60 years), widows, divorced women and handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;

(c) whether there is any special dispensation/consideration for BPL, SC, ST, OBC of above categories;

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the amount being disbursed as pension/aid to above categories; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) the monthly pension to destitute older persons is being provided by various State Governments under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), for which Additional Central Assistance at the rate of Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary is given. Some State Governments have increased the rate of pension by arranging additional funds from their own resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

**Hostels for backward class women**

841. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels established by the Union Government for the benefit of the women for backward classes, State-wise;

(b) the number of backward class women hostels being run by the State Governments; and

(c) how many of these are in the cities of Chennai and Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Union Government is implementing a scheme